Revised: July 2015

Score	Development	Focus & Organization	Language	Conventions
4	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  • effectively utilizes relevant narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection in order to thoroughly and insightfully develop experiences, events, and/or characters.  • effectively incorporates relevant, well-chosen details from the text/passage.  • effectively demonstrates a clear, insightful understanding of the task by using relevant, well-chosen, descriptive details in order to convey a precise and thorough picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  • effectively establishes a relevant situation, observation, or problem and a point(s) of view to engage and orient the reader and introduces a narrator and/or characters.  • utilizes effective organizational strategies to establish a sequence of events and/or experiences that clarify relationships and unfold naturally and logically, creating cohesion, resulting in a unified whole.  • contains an effective conclusion that follows from and reflects the narrated events or experiences.	The writing:  • illustrates consistent and sophisticated command of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary appropriate to the task.  • illustrates sophisticated command of syntactic variety for meaning and reader interest.  • utilizes sophisticated and varied transitional words and phrases.	The writing:  • demonstrates consistent and sophisticated command of grade-level conventions of standard written English.  • may contain a few minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.
3	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  • adequately utilizes relevant narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection in order to sufficiently develop experiences, events, and/or characters.  • adequately incorporates relevant, well-chosen details from the text/passage.  • adequately demonstrates a clear understanding of the task by using relevant, well-chosen, descriptive details in order to convey a precise picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  • adequately establishes a relevant situation, observation, or problem and a point(s) of view to engage and orient the reader and introduces a narrator and/or characters.  • utilizes adequate organizational strategies to establish a sequence of events and/or experiences that clarify relationships and unfold naturally and logically, creating cohesion, resulting in a unified whole.  • contains an adequate conclusion that follows from and reflects the narrated events or experiences.	The writing:  illustrates consistent command of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary appropriate to the task.  illustrates consistent command of syntactic variety for meaning and reader interest.  utilizes appropriate and varied transitional words and phrases.	The writing:  • demonstrates consistent command of grade-level conventions of standard written English.¹  • contains some minor and/or major errors, but the errors do not significantly interfere with meaning.
2	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  • utilizes some relevant narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection in order to partially convey experiences, events, and/or characters.  • utilizes limited, if any, relevant, well-chosen details from the text/passage.  • demonstrates some understanding of the task by using some relevant or well-chosen details in order to convey a limited picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  conveys a limited, possibly confusing, situation, observation, or problem that may include a point(s) of view, a narrator, and/or characters.  contains a limited sequence of events and/or experiences that may be confusing or contain gaps that interfere with the natural flow of events and/or experiences.  contains a weak conclusion that may be only loosely related to the narrated events or experiences.	The writing:  illustrates inconsistent command of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary.  illustrates inconsistent command of syntactic variety.  utilizes basic or repetitive transitional words and phrases.	The writing:  • demonstrates inconsistent command of grade-level conventions of standard written English.¹  • contains many errors that may significantly interfere with meaning.
1	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  • contains few or no relevant narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection in order to convey experiences, events and/or characters.  • contains no or irrelevant details from the text/passage.  • demonstrates little to no understanding of the task by using no or irrelevant details, conveying an unclear or no picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.	In response to the task and the stimulus, the writing:  contains an unclear, irrelevant, or no situation, observation, problem, or point of view.  contains no or an ineffective sequence of events and/or experiences that may be brief, confusing, or very hard to follow.  contains no or an irrelevant conclusion.	The writing:  illustrates little to no use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary.  illustrates little to no syntactic variety.  utilizes no or few transitional words and phrases.	The writing:  • demonstrates limited command of grade-level conventions of standard written English.¹  • contains numerous and repeated errors that seriously impede meaning.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Conventions of standard written English include sentence structure, grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.



